less than 30 per cent only in five States viz; Bihar (18.20%), Chhattisgarh (25.50%), Jharkhand (20.85%), Tripura (19.06%) and West Bengal (24.98%). Due to various socio-economic reasons there is lesser availability of qualified female primary school teachers in a number of States. However, the percentage of female teachers to total number of teachers in primary schools is increasing every year.

Primary schools

690. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of primary schools has gone up by an impressive 14.19 per cent from the last survey to stand at 6.51 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many States were found to have a growth rate of less than 10 percent; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes Sir. According to 7th All India School Education Survey (Reference Date: 30th September, 2002) the total number of primary schools in the country are 6.51 lakhs registering a growth of 14.19% from the 6th All India School Education Survey (Reference Date: 30th September, 1993).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The States with a growth rate of less than 10% from the 6th All India School Education Survey are Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

Verification of certificates

691. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that those aspiring for jobs abroad are required to get their degrees/certificates verified by the Department of Education;